

BENEFIT AWARD UNDER SENATE BILL (SB) 2XXX

When you file a claim for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits, wages paid to you during a specific 12-month period are determined, and are referred to as "base period wages." The amount of UI benefits potentially payable to you each week, referred to as the "weekly benefit amount," is calculated based on the calendar quarter with the highest wages during the base period. The total amount of UI benefits payable, referred to as the "maximum benefit amount," is 26 times the weekly benefit amount **or** one-half of the total base period wages, whichever is less.

Senate Bill (SB) 2XXX provides for a one-time retroactive increase in UI benefits, for weeks of UI compensation on or after September 11, 2001, for "qualified individuals" who 1) did not exhaust their UI benefits as of September 11, 2001, or 2) filed a new claim for UI benefits with an effective date beginning on or after September 11, 2001. The change in UI benefits is the same as the one that was effective January 1, 2002. While SB 2XXX provides for a potential increase in the weekly benefit amount of a claim, it does not change the method of calculating the maximum benefit amount.

In order to determine if (and how much) additional UI benefits are payable to you under SB 2XXX, your final maximum benefit amount must be calculated (taking into consideration that weeks before September 11, 2001 were paid at a lower weekly benefit amount, while weeks after September 11, 2001 may be eligible for a higher weekly benefit amount). Here are the steps used to compute the final maximum benefit amount:

1. All benefits paid on a claim for weeks of UI compensation ending prior to September 11, 2001, are added together.
Note: This includes all benefit checks, child support intercept payment deductions, voluntary federal income tax deductions, any monies deducted to repay/reduce an overpayment, and any waived overpayments.
2. The total amount of benefits paid from Step #1 (above) is divided by the maximum benefit amount on the claim before any adjustments due to SB 2XXX, and rounded to 4 decimal places (0.xxxx or xx.xx%). This is the percentage of benefits paid prior to September 11, 2001.
3. The percentage in Step #2 is subtracted from 100%. This is the percentage of benefits after September 11, 2001.
4. The percentage from Step #3 is multiplied by the maximum benefit amount based on the change in UI benefits effective January 1, 2002. This is the amount of benefits after September 11, 2001.
5. The sum from Step #1 (amount paid prior to September 11, 2001, based on the entitlement before any adjustments due to SB 2XXX) is added to the result from Step #4 (amount of benefits after September 11, 2001, based on the entitlement with the change in UI benefits effective January 1, 2002). This is the final maximum benefit amount.